



## MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Miner's Tip

**Safety and  
Health are  
Values!**

### "Overhead Powerline Safety"

Mine Type: **All Surface**  
Category(s): **Electrical**

A fatality occurred when a contract electrician was installing power lines to an elevated electrical box mounted on the side of a building. The victim swung the man lift away from the work area and came into contact with a high voltage power line.

When working near overhead power lines there are techniques to use to prevent serious accidents and fatalities. These include de-energizing lines (first and foremost), maintaining appropriate distances from energized lines, installing guarding, and using an observer on the ground to prevent contact with obstructions. For more information please see [this safety idea](#).

Ted Kaler of Hooksett Crushed Stone reminds us, "(This tip) was derived following a toolbox talk and the crew giving the following input. When personnel are working with man lifts in the area of open electrical power lines, there should be a second person (on the ground) monitoring the activity of the person in the lift basket." Remember de-energizing and marking electrical lines reduce the risk of electrocution. Also, having another set of eyes "spotting" will reduce the risk hitting these power lines and other potential obstructions.



**MSHA extends a thank you and a tip of the hardhat to**

**Ted Kaler and "THE Crew",  
a winner of a limited edition sticker and patch.**

**If you have a tip you would like to pass on, you can e-mail it to [zzMSHA-MinersTips@dol.gov](mailto:zzMSHA-MinersTips@dol.gov). If your tip is selected, you will receive credit in this space.**

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